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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is

1.   A method in a data processing system for researching text in an electronic book, the method comprising:

receiving a user input selecting the text from the electronic book to form selected text; and

automatically initiating a search for at least one item relevant to the selected text in response to receiving the user input.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein at least one item is at least one of a Web page, a Web site, another electronic book, an electronic document, and a universal resource locator.

3.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

storing the selected text in a data structure.

4.   The method of claim 2, wherein data structure is a search profile.

5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the selected text is highlighted text.

6.   The method of claim 5, wherein the highlighted text is text in a different color from unselected text, bolded text, and text with a different font type from unselected text.

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1 7.   The method of claim 5, wherein the highlighted text
2 is a notated passage of text in the electronic book.

1 8.   The method of claim 5, wherein the highlighted text
2 is a highlighted passage of text in the electronic book.

1 9.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2   receiving a result from the searching; and
3   presenting the result.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of receiving
2 a result is initiated using a search engine.

1 11. A method in a data processing system for searching
2 text, the method comprising:
3   responsive to a designation of the text in an
4 electronic document, placing the text in a data
5 structure;
6   transmitting the data structure to a search engine;
7 and
8   receiving results from the search engine.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the data structure
2 is a search profile.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the search profile
2 includes search criteria.

1 14. The method of claim 11, wherein the electronic

1   document is an electronic book.

1   15.   The method of claim 11, wherein the electronic

2   document is a Web page.

1   16.   The method of claim 11, wherein the designation of

2   the text is made by highlighting the text in the

3   electronic document.

1   17.   A method in a data processing system for researching

2   highlighted text in an electronic book, the method

3   comprising:

4   receiving results of researched selected text;

5   downloading the results of researched selected text;

6   and

7   displaying the results of researched selected text.

1   18.   A data processing system for researching highlighted

2   text in an electronic book, a data processing system

3   comprising:

4   receiving means for receiving a user input selecting

5   the text from the electronic book to form selected text;

6   and

7   initiating means for automatically initiating a

8   search for at least one item relevant to the selected

9   text in response to receiving the user input.

1   19.   A method in a data processing system for searching

2   text, the method comprising:

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1   responsive to a designation of the text in an

2   electronic document, placing means for placing the text

3   in a data structure;

4   transmitting means for transmitting the data

5   structure to a search engine; and

6   receiving means for receiving results from the

7   search engine.

1   20.   A data processing system comprising:

2   a bus system;

3   a communication unit connected to the bus system;

4   a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the

5   memory includes a set of instructions; and

6   a processing unit connected to the bus system,

7   wherein the processing unit executes the set of

8   instruction to receiving a user input selecting the text

9   from the electronic book to form selected text; and

10 automatically initiating a search for at least one item

11 relevant to the selected text in response to receiving

12 the user input.

1   21.   A computer program product in a computer readable

2   medium for researching highlighted text in an electronic

3   book, the computer program product comprising:

4   first instructions for receiving a user input

5   selecting the text from the electronic book to form

6   selected text; and

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1   second instructions for automatically initiating a

2   search for at least one item relevant to the selected

3   text in response to receiving the user input.